



City of Freeport

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

January 28, 2021, 6:00 PM
Council Chambers, Freeport City Hall

Council Members Present: Mayor Russ Barley, Councilwoman Amanda Green, Councilman Eddie Farris, Councilman Mark Martin

Council Members Absent: Councilwoman Elizabeth Brannon, Councilwoman Elizabeth Haffner

Staff Members Present: City Manager Charlie Simmons, City Clerk Malani Robinson, City Attorney Clay Adkinson, Finance Officer Sara Bowers, Billing Manager Debbie Roberts, Parks Director Travis Digges, Water Supervisor Larry Tuggle, Engineer Alex Rouchaleau

1. Meeting Called to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6PM by Mayor Barley in the Council Chambers of Freeport City Hall.

2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

The invocation was given by Councilman Farris, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

3. Recognition of Guests

None.

4. Consent Agenda

- a. Revenue & Expenditure Report through December 2020
- b. Bills
- c. City Council Meeting Minutes- December 8, 2020
- d. City Council Meeting Minutes- January 12, 2021

5. Public Comment on Consent Agenda

Councilwoman Green expressed concerns about misspellings and typos in the Meeting Minutes that she felt needed to be addressed before being approved. City Clerk Robinson asked for clarity on these errors to which Councilwoman Green advised she would discuss with her following the Council Meeting. Councilwoman Green sought clarity on making the appropriate motion from City Attorney Adkinson.

6. Approval of Consent Agenda

Moved by: Councilwoman Green

Seconded by: Councilman Martin

To approve the consent Agenda subject to corrections.

A roll call vote was ordered, and the vote was as follows:

Councilman Farris: aye

Councilman Martin: aye

Councilwoman Green: aye

Carried

7. Consideration of Additions/Deletions to Agenda

City Manager Simmons requested to add Appropriations Submittal to the Agenda. Mayor Barley requested to add the State City of the Year Award and the Upcoming Easter Egg Drop/ Festival to his section of the Agenda.

8. Approval of Agenda with Additions/Deletions

Moved by: Councilman Farris

Seconded by: Councilwoman Green

To approve the Agenda with the specified additions as presented.

A roll call vote was ordered, and the vote was as follows:

Councilman Farris: aye

Councilman Martin: aye

Councilwoman Green: aye

Carried

9. **Staff Reports**

- a. Water
- b. Sewer
- c. Parks

1. Pool Seat Shade Replacement Quotes

Parks Director Digges informed the Council that he would like to add new shading to the pool area, noting that the current shade needed to be removed due to damage. Parks Director Digges presented quotes to the Council from several companies noting the pros and cons of each option. Parks Director Digges recommended that the City take the lowest bid from WeCanShadeIt which also matched the shade installed at Casey Park. A request for accepting the bid from WeCanShadeIt was made.

Moved by: Councilman Farris

Seconded by: Councilwoman Green

To ACCEPT the WeCanShade bid.

A roll call vote was ordered, and the vote was as follows:

Councilman Farris: aye

Councilman Martin: aye

Councilwoman Green: aye

Carried

d. City Manager

1. Incentive for Sewer Treatment Plant Construction

City Manager Simmons informed the Council that he had been discussing possible incentives with City Attorney Adkinson to present to contractors for the Sewer Treatment Plant facility. City Attorney Adkinson noted that the funds for the project were USDA Rural Development which caused him to be on high alert for the language included in the bid documents they would use to possibly sway contractors to expedite the project. After careful review of the drafted contract submitted by

Engineer Rouchaleau, City Attorney Adkinson is reviewing it to make the language specific before seeking approval to use it as a tool from USDA.

2. Water Infrastructure Improvement

City Manager Simmons informed the Council that there was a section of Robinwood Street that did not have adequate water flow for fire protection. With the changes being conducted by East Bay Loop, City Manager Simmons felt that it would be appropriate to install a 6-inch line so that they could install fire hydrants. City Manager Simmons continued by discussing the quote provided to the Council and sought approval of the added project.

City Manager Simmons gave the Council an update on his trip to Tallahassee to meet with Representative Drake and Senator Gainer, where he received assurance in their support to push the City's projects forward. He also informed the Council that on February 12, 2021 Senator Gainer and Representative Drake will hold their Delegation Meeting at City Hall from 1-3PM.

City Manager Simmons informed the Council that it was time to submit the yearly franchise report to the County, which was drafted with the assistance of Engineer Rouchaleau, Billing Manager Roberts, and City Attorney Adkinson. City Attorney Adkinson noted that he believed the report to be legally sufficient, however the County would give feedback if they required additional information.

Moved by: Councilman Farris

Seconded by: Councilman Martin

To APPROVE adding a line to install fire hydrants along Robinwood.

A roll call vote was ordered, and the vote was as follows:

Councilman Farris: aye

Councilman Martin: aye

Councilwoman Green: aye

Carried

e. City Clerk

f. Finance

1. Budget Amendment #1

Finance Officer Bowers presented a budget amendment before the Council to fund the installation of a 6-inch water main line on Robinwood to provide fire flow

capabilities, as well as furnish a fence around the new Water Department property. A motion to approve the budget amendment was requested.

Moved by: Councilman Martin
Seconded by: Councilman Farris

To Approve Budget Amendment #1.

A roll call vote was ordered, and the vote was as follows:

Councilman Farris: aye

Councilman Martin: aye

Councilwoman Green: aye

Carried

- g. Billing
- h. Planning
- i. Legal
- j. Engineering

1. Appropriations Submittal

Engineer Rouchaleau informed the Council that after discussion with the lobbyist on the Appropriations Projects they believed that the City should seek an alternative approach to secure funding for the U.S 331 Water and Sewer Project. The City would address Segment 4 of the project and over a five-year period would ask \$380,000 from the legislature and match it with \$100,000, which would dedicate \$480,000 to that project each year. Councilwoman Green asked for clarity on what segment of the project the funding would be allocated towards. Engineer Rouchaleau informed the Council that the funds would be for Segment 4, however it did not limit the City in pursuing additional funds from other sources or from asking for more funding in other years. City Manager Simmons informed the Council that with the new 50% Rule he did not find it wise to seek a larger amount that the City would have to match. City Manager Simmons also informed the Council that with budget cuts the State would not be giving out large amounts of funding therefore he believed the approach to be the safest route. Councilman Farris noted that it made a huge difference for the State to see that the City could add funding towards its own projects, especially in today's political climate. City Manager Simmons noted that he made sure to inform the State of the City's rapport of funding its own projects. Councilwoman Green noted her concerns about cutting the City too short by asking

for such a generous amount of funding from the State. Councilman Martin noted that the City needed to be ahead with development, cautioning of problems that could arise because the City failed to lay the groundwork. Engineer Rouchaleau reminded the Council that the City had been denied for 5 years with requesting larger amounts of funding, so he felt that this was a wise starting point. City Manager Simmons noted that this would be a great route to getting the City's foot in the door with State funding. Councilman Martin noted that Engineer Knauer was good with finding grant money for the City.

Engineer Rouchaleau informed the Council that the Treatment Plant Pre-Bid Meeting had 20 attendees and included a tour of the build site. The official bid would take place on February 18.

10. Old Business

11. New Business

a. Mayor Russ Barley

1. State City of The Year Award

Mayor Barley informed the Council that while on his trip to Orlando to accept the Local City of The Year Award, the veteran's group Vouture Locale also submitted the City for the national award in Missouri. Mayor Barley noted that if the City won the national award that Vouture Locale would pay for all expenses.

2. Easter Egg Drop/Festival

Mayor Barley informed the Council that The Destiny Church had reached out to him regarding approval of conducting the annual Easter Egg Drop. City Manager Simmons noted that he and Mayor Barley have discussed it being an open-air area making room for COVID safety accommodations. City Manager Simmons continued by adding that several events have been canceled in the past year, however he is looking into the City doing something for the 4th of July due to it being further out and the anxiousness of the public. Councilwoman Green remarked that if the plan to conduct the Easter Egg Drop was traditional then she would be against it due to no social distancing amongst the children, she would prefer an alternative method to the Easter Egg Drop. Councilman Farris noted that although he loved the idea he was concerned about social distancing and children spreading COVID, he would feel more comfortable with events being held further out into the year. Mayor Barley asked for clarification on either canceling the event or encouraging the church to find an alternative method for conducting the Easter Egg Drop. Councilwoman Green noted that she felt that the event needed to be canceled for safety precautions.

Moved by: Councilwoman Green

Seconded by: Councilman Farris

To CANCEL the Easter Egg Drop.

A roll call vote was ordered, and the vote was as follows:

Councilman Farris: aye

Councilman Martin: aye

Councilwoman Green: aye

Carried

b. Councilwoman Brannon

c. Councilman Farris

d. Councilwoman Green

e. Councilwoman Haffner

f. Councilman Martin

12. Public Comment

13. Adjournment

Mayor Barley motioned to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 6:38 PM.



Mayor

ATTEST:



City Clerk